



Texas Juvenile Justice Department

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Texas Juvenile Justice Department Board Holds First Meeting

AUSTIN – The Board of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) conducted its inaugural meeting on Thursday, Dec. 1, to assume the functions of the former Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. Both of those agencies have now been abolished and the 13-member TJJD board will oversee operations and policy development of the new TJJD.

In one of its first actions, the Board appointed 10 members to the TJJD Advisory Council, a 13-member body that will provide input regarding local probation issues, long-range strategic planning, and standards that impact programs, services and facilities. The appointments were:

- Homer Flores, Nueces County Juvenile Probation
- William Carter, Lubbock County Juvenile Probation
- Phillip Hayes, Cass County Juvenile Probation
- Estela Medina, Travis County Juvenile Probation
- Mario Ramirez, 332nd District Court in Edinburg
- Matt Shaheen, Collin County Commissioner Precinct 1
- Larry Thorne, 317th District Court in Beaumont
- Randy Turner, Tarrant County Juvenile Probation
- Doug Vance, Brazos County Juvenile Probation
- Mark Williams, Tom Green County Juvenile Probation

The remaining three members of the Advisory Council will be the executive director or designee of the TJJD, the director or designee of TJJD probation services and the executive commissioner or designee of the Health and Human Services Commission.

The board also posted its job vacancy for the TJJD Executive Director position and appointed a smaller committee of its members to interview applicants on Jan. 5, 2012. Final selection of an executive director is expected to take place on Jan. 6. Dr. Robin McKeever, the former Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Youth Commission, will serve as the agency's interim director until a new director is chosen.

The Board also appointed Karin Hill as the new agency's Internal Auditor and Cris Love as the TJJD Chief Inspector General.

The board's next meeting will take place Jan. 6, 2012, in Austin.

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Contact Jim Hurley at 512-424-6016 for more information.